THE COMPUTER

UFO NEWSLETTER

EXPERIMENTAL ISSUE

THE COMPUTER UFO NEWSLETTER

Experimental Issue - May 1985

"The Computer UFO Newsletter" is an aperiodical indipendent newsletter published from four to six times per year, entirely devoted to presentation of works and discussions about the use of computer in ufology.

Contributions are open to all researchers with personal experience in the field.

Exchange with publications dealing with the UFO mystery is encouraged.

The newsletter is avaiable in computerized version on floppy disk / cassette for Commodore-64 microcomputer.

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Please send all correspondence and papers to :

"The Computer UFO Newsletter"

via Matteotti 85

1-22072 Cermenate (Como)

ITALY

PREFACE

This is the experimental issue of "The Conputer UFO Newsletter", a new publication particularly devoted to applications of electronic data processing to ufology.

A different newsletter, the first of such a Kind in all over the world. We will not publish only papers about hardware and software, word-processing and database programs: subjects directly linked with UFOs will be presented, even though at informative level.

The newsletter is directed to all those who have a home/personal computer or able to make use of a larger system (mainframe, for instance).

Its existence depends on their own contribution, as it will be a product of them.

In this perspective all of you are invited to supply comments, ideas, papers on the work you are carrying out or just planned by your own computer.

The chief matters developed in the newslitter will be :

- -1- presentation of works prepared (or planned) through a computer
- -2- the search for a common codification procedure and parallely a common database
- -3- the survey about a possibility of data exchange among different computers
- -4- the census of computer avaiable to ufologists
- -5- the possibility of network linked via modem
- -6- proposals for models statistical processing with applications of existing programs for home/personal computers

Moreover, exchange of software and personal experiences with computer will be taken into consideration.

The newsletter is to be published 4/6 times per year (but without fixed frequence), in English language, 10/15 pages for issue initially: for special papers will be accepted the French one.

English-speaking friends would please excuse the several mistakes of grammar, syntax and orthography included in the text. Unfortunately, our Knowledge of English is far to be perfect.

C.U.F.O.N. is written by the famous word-processing program "Easy Script" for Commodore 64, so that alleged files will be avaiable to

anyone.

If number of C-64 owners will be quite high, there is an ambitious idea in project: to prepare a suitable program for a real computerized magazine, able to run on the micro-computer directly.

An Apple IIc version of such a newsletter could be avaiable in the near future. If there is someone able to prepare versions for other Kinds of computer, please contact us as soon as possible. In this way the same program could be used on different machines.

The first issue of "The Computer UFO Newsletter" will be released in July 1985: it will be sent free of charge only to researchers who will reply the alleged questionnarie. For the following issues the request for a small amount of money (to cover a part of costs) will be possible.

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REMEMBER :

The newsletter life depends only on your own contributions !

Computer & Ufology in Italy

- An Abstract -

During 1984 some projects relating the use of computer in ufology have been started in Italy.

Besides simple applications as mail lists and specific bibliographies, special efforts have been directed towards the establishment of catalogues of UFO events.

Computer owned by Italian ufologists are essentially of two Kinds: Commodore 64 (at least 8/9) and Apple II (6/7). Moreover someone has access to more sophisticated systems as PC IBM, OLIVETTI M-20 & M-24, IBM/34 and others.

Here is a brief summary of the chief ones :

On a Texas Instruments 990/I have been stored all Italian cases happened in the 80's. Each entry presents date, hour, place and province, classification and avaiable sources.

Some statistical analyses have already been carried out on the whole sample, which contains IFO events too. The major aim of such a work, edited by E.Russo in Turin, is to Keep constantly updated the Italian casuistry of the last years on a computer.

Employing the same previous computer and the same database program, P.Fiorino is finishing his own catalogue of Italian CE3 events.

About 300 events and thousands of sources have been stored for this work, including also hoaxes and contactee claims.

C.U.N. (Centro Ufologico Nazionale) - the Italian biggest group - started a project for the computerization of Italian casuistry by a "network" of Commodore-64. Italian ufologists owning such a machine received a common database through which they should store their local UFO casuistry (on provincial or regional basis).

The Italian Scene

Entries present all their fundamental data: date, hour, place, province, classification and sources.

According to the project, at least 25% of Known Italian UFO casuistry (that is some thousands of cases) would have to be avaiable on computer within the end of 1985. Data will be avaiable to anyone through floppy disk or cassette: some files are ready at moment.

As the C-64 micro-computer doesn't allow to develop complex statistical analyses on large mass of data, C.U.N. members are looking for a suitable interface and software able to transfer data from C-64 to a more powerful personal computer (Apple IIc, PC IBM, etc....).

M.Verga established a computerized version of his own ITACAT (Italian Catalogue of Type-1 events) on a Commodore 64.

It is structured on a four-programs series, including a detailed presentation (several pages of information directly on the screen !) and a powerful special database, able to process the 425 entries in any way (enter, correct, print, sort, order, etc.....). Special care has been devoted to graphic, so that a color TV or monitor is strongly recommended.

The whole program is integrated by a written explanation about general information on ITACAT and how to use the software.

M. Verga prepared other two catalogue of Italian sightings: both are structured on a series of programs like ITACAT. Database programs are pratically the same.

The first one is the catalogue of Italian Type-1 "negative" (IFO) events, including about 100 entries; the second one is the catalogue of Italian 160 or so trace cases.

All these three series of programs have been developed as simple reference work, able to give a certain number of information about the reported cases. This was the sole objective of the author, as he didn't agree much with the full codification of witness UFO experiences.

Copies of all above mentioned programs (including files)and their printed reports, as well as more detailed information about them, can be requested to the address of "The Computer UFO Newsletter".

To all readers

QUESTIONNARIE

(1) Do you have a computer ? (2) What is its exact model ? (3) Have you any of the following devices ? DISK DRIVE - PRINTER - CASSETTE RECORDER - (color) MONITOR - MODEM LIGHT PEN - EPROM PROGRAMMER - Others (.....?) (4) Have you access to a computer (a mainframe, too)? Please give details. (5) How many programs have you for your own micro/personal computer ? Please enclose a listing if possible. Have you any word-processing or database program? (6) Have you carried out any work about ufology ? (catalogues of cases, books, magazines; mail lists; statistical analyses; etc....) (7) Do tou Know other researchers / groups from any country having a computer or able to use it ? Please supply names and addresses. Name

Please send to :

Address

Maurizio Verga via Matteotti 85 I-22072 Cermenate (Como) ITALY

CALL FOR PAPERS

Authors should prepare their own texts uusing a woord-processor.

C-64 owners are strongly recommended to make use of "Easy Script", following these standards:

LEFT MARGIN 5
RIGHT MARGIN 75
TEXT LENGHT 55
JUSTIFICATION on
HEADINGS/FOOTINGS at two spaces from start/bottom of page

Texts written by other Kind of computer should adopt the above mentioned standards too.

Authors are inviited to supply - together with a printed copy - the file generated by the word-processor pn a floppy disk or cassette. C-64 files could be supplied without printed version, but the latter is always preferred.

Papers composed on a normal typewriter - besides having the above mentioned requirements - should be double spaced. Eventual sketches and diagrams would have to be very clear and located on a different sheet, in order to make their reproduction easier.

All papers must be written in English : exceptionally, French language could be accepted.

Contributions by authors are free of charge and will be published inside the newsletter just possible.